Calculus Carols

Imagine a tall, dynamic teacher, head of the Society for Isaac Newton, and dressed as the Big Fig (we told you that you would have to use your imagination). That was Denis Gannon (1940–1991), an inspiring teacher at F.T. Maloney High School in Meriden, CT for 29 years. Gannon's hallmark was humor. Each year at the holiday season he bellowed out Calculus Carols that he wrote for his AP Calculus students. Here are two for your class to sing.

FILL THE BOARDS WITH DIFFERENTIALS

(To: "Deck the Halls")

Fill the boards with differentials,
FA-LA-LA-LA-LA LA-LA-LA-LA,
Note that *du*'s are essential,
FA-LA-LA-LA-LA LA-LA-LA-LA,
C's are constants here before us,
FA-LA-LA LA-LA-LA LA-LA-LA,
Integration cannot floor us,
FA-LA-LA-LA-LA LA-LA-LA-LA.

Quizzes always make us queasy,
FA-LA-LA-LA-LA LA-LA-LA-LA,
Max and mins are never easy,
FA-LA-LA-LA-LA LA-LA-LA-LA,
Conic volumes we can measure,
FA-LA-LA LA-LA-LA LA-LA-LA,
Nines and tens we'll always treasure,
FA-LA-LA-LA-LA LA-LA-LA-LA.

OH CALCULUS, OH CALCULUS!

(To: "Oh, Christmas Tree")

Oh, Calculus; Oh, Calculus,
How tough are both your branches.
Oh, Calculus; Oh, Calculus,
To pass, what are my chances?
Derivatives I cannot take,
At integrals my fingers shake.
Oh, Calculus; Oh, Calculus,
How tough are both your branches.

Oh, Calculus; Oh, Calculus,
Your theorems I can't master.
Oh, Calculus; Oh, Calculus,
My proofs are a disaster.
You pull a trick out of the air,
Or find a reason, God knows where.
Oh, Calculus; Oh, Calculus,
Your theorems I can't master.

Oh, Calculus; Oh, Calculus,
Your problems do distress me.
Oh, Calculus; Oh, Calculus,
Related rates depress me.
I walk toward lampposts in my sleep,
And running water makes me weep.
Oh, Calculus; Oh, Calculus,
Your problems do distress me.

Oh, Calculus; Oh, Calculus,
My limit I am reaching.
Oh, Calculus; Oh, Calculus,
For mercy I'm beseeching.
My grades do not approach a B,
They're just an epsilon from D.
Oh, Calculus; Oh, Calculus,
My limit I am reaching.

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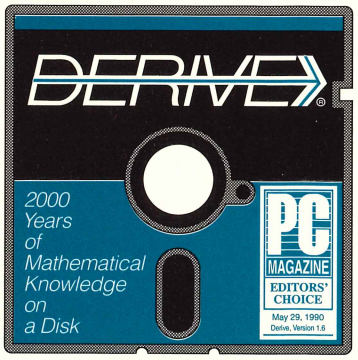

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